



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
FOLSOM FIELD OFFICE  
63 NATOMA STREET  
FOLSOM, CA 95630

## Decision Memorandum and Categorical Exclusion Documentation CE # CA-180-08-08

**A. Project Title:** Yuba Goldfields Emergency Closure to Motorized Vehicles

**B. Description and Rationale:** The action is to temporarily (6 months or less) close two parcels of public land to all motorized vehicle use. In 2007, members of South Yuba River Citizen's League informed Drew Abrams, the BLM ranger patrolling this area, that motorized vehicles were crossing a tall row of gravel tailings known as the "training wall", and entering this riverfront parcel(s) over salmon spawning redds. The vehicle entry points over the "training wall" were documented by BLM staff in a subsequent site visit to the area. Although, motorized vehicle use has been occurring in the Gold Fields since it was opened to public access in 2003, this was the first time that motorized vehicle users had gone over the "training wall" into the river. The river in this area is used mainly by spawning fall run Chinook salmon, a federal candidate for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Other species using this portion of the river for spawning are spring run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead, both listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of this emergency order is to protect the above listed anadromous fish species.

**C. Location:** The Yuba Goldfields area affected by the closure, includes a 160 acre parcel(s) of federal public lands along the Yuba River that is critical to salmon spawning. This parcel(s) is located near Marysville in Yuba County, California (see attached map), and managed by BLM's Folsom Field Office (FFO). The closed area is described as follows: All public lands in T16N, R 5E, Section 22 and lands in T16N, R 5E, Section 27, Lots 7 and 8, and the riverbed between the above stated lands.

**D. Stipulations/Mitigations:** Closure signs will be posted at main entry points to these areas. Maps of the closure area may be obtained from the Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630. Phone: (916) 985-4474.

**E. Plan Conformance:** The parcel(s) is considered custodial lands, and motorized travel is not addressed in the applicable land use plan, which is the Sierra Management Framework Plan (MFP), 1988. The closure will take effect immediately, and will remain in effect until the Sierra Resource Management Plan and supplemental rules relevant to this closure are finalized.

**F. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act:** The project is a categorically excluded action under the following Bureau of Land Management categorical exclusion (516 DM, 11.9 G(3)): *Temporary closure of roads and trails.*

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

Peggy Canston  
Preparer

1/2/08  
Date

W S Haigh  
William S. Haigh  
Field Manager  
Folsom Field Office

1-8-08  
Date

**NEPA Compliance**  
**Categorical Exclusion Review**  
**CE #CA-180-08-08**  
**Yuba Goldfields Emergency Closure to Motorized Vehicles**

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional environmental analysis/documentation.

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

2) *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

3) *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

☐ Yes ☒ No

4) *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

5) *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

☐ Yes ☒ No

11) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).

( ) Yes (X) No

12) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

( ) Yes (X) No

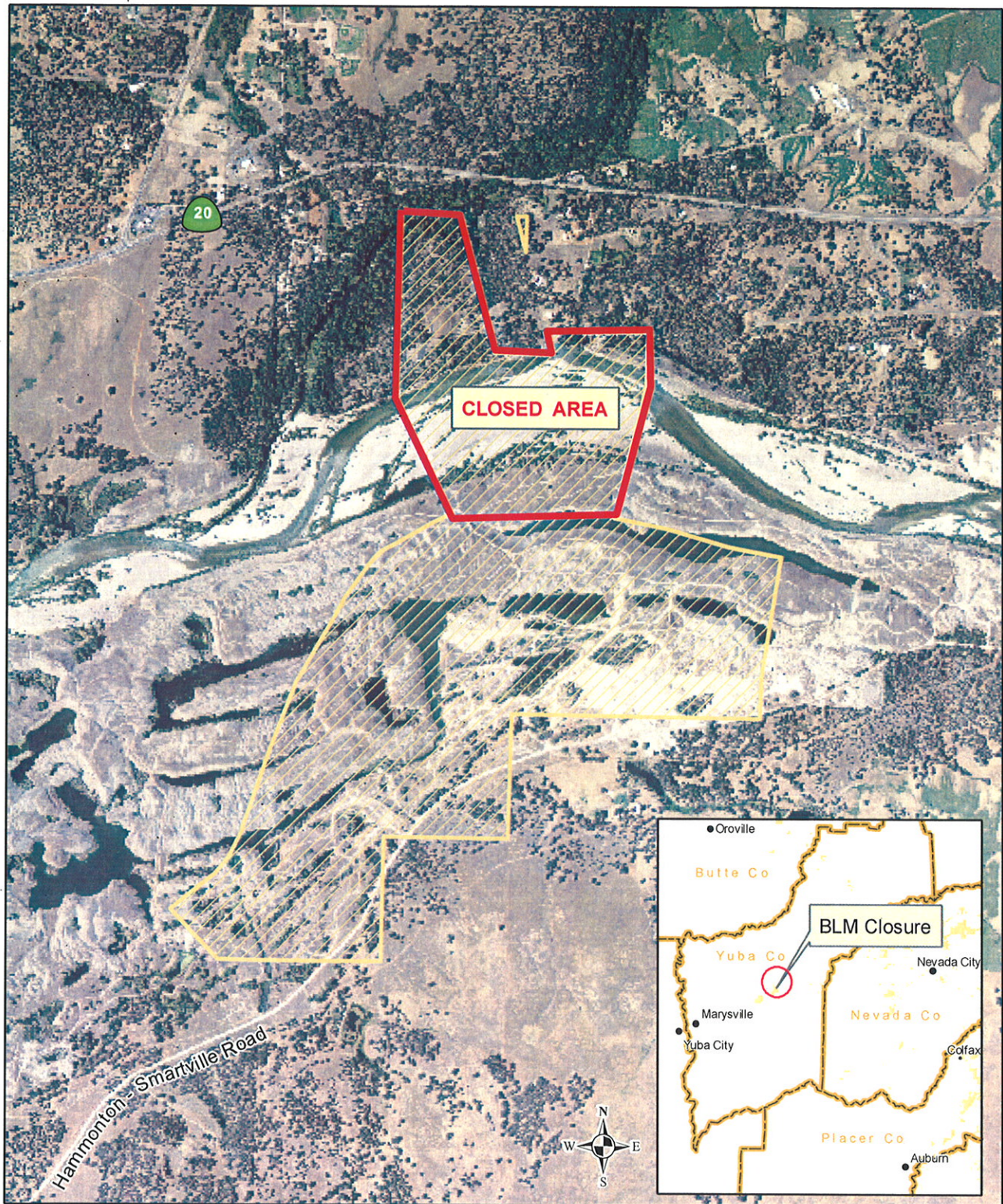
Reviewers:

<u>Jeff Ho</u>	<u>1/2/08</u>
Recreation	
<u>Albee Eisen</u>	<u>1/2/08</u>
Botany	
<u>Jimmie Bunker</u>	<u>1/2/08</u>
Cultural Resources	
<u>Peggy Canston</u>	<u>1/2/08</u>
Fisheries	
<u>Peggy Canston</u>	<u>1/2/08</u>
Wildlife	

R5E

T16N

T16N



US Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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Folsom, California  
(916) 985-4474  
[www.ca.blm.gov/folsom](http://www.ca.blm.gov/folsom)  
Date Prepared: 11/14/2007  
Project: closure\_sec27.mxd

## Yuba Gold Fields Closure on Public Lands

T.16 N., R.5 E., Section 27

 Public Lands

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Folsom Field Office  
63 Natoma Street  
Folsom, California 95630

8100  
CA-180.27

December 6, 2007

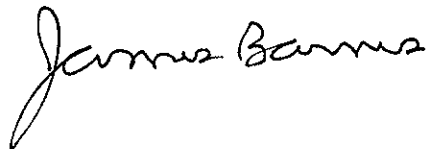
**MEMORANDUM**

To: Field Manager

From: James Barnes, Archaeologist

Re: Section 106 compliance for the Yuba Goldfields emergency closure to motorized vehicles, Yuba County

The Folsom Field Office (BLM) is planning to install signs along routes on BLM-administered land in the Yuba Goldfields as part of BLM's effort to close certain areas to motorized vehicle use. The reason for the proposed closure is to help protect Chinook spawning grounds along the Yuba River. I am familiar with the area affected by the sign installation and the methods used to install the signs. I believe that the installation would not affect cultural resources. I also believe that Native American consultation is not necessary for the proposed closure. On this basis I have determined that the above-referenced undertaking may be treated as "exempt" under the provisions of Exemption A19 and A33 of our statewide Protocol Agreement. This finding would complete BLM's obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

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**LETTER TO FILE**

SUBJECT: Section 106 compliance for Yuba Goldfields emergency closure to motorized vehicles, Yuba County

PROJECT: Yuba Goldfields emergency closure to motorized vehicles

REPORT #: N/A

DATE(S) COMPLETED: December 6, 2007

TYPE OF SURVEY: None

CULTURAL PPROPERTIES PRESENT: Undetermined

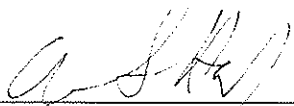
ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES: Undetermined

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: Exempt under A19 and A33

SHPO CONSULTATION/SECTION 106 STEPS COMPLETED: all

DISCUSSION: This letter to the file documents that I have reviewed the above listed Cultural Resource Inventory Report. Pursuant to the Protocol Agreement (2007) between BLM California and the State Historic Preservation Officer, I affirm that all necessary steps have been taken to identify, record, and determine effects on cultural properties with the undertaking's area of potential effects. This report has been completed by an approved staff specialist and is in accordance with all standards and guidelines as outlined in the Protocol Agreement (2007).

I concur with the findings of this analysis.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William S. Haigh, Field Manager (CA-180)

12-11-07  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date